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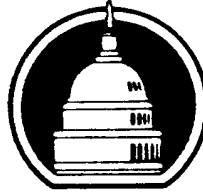
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Housing and Urban Development Secretary Samuel R. Pierce Jr. remains.

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Yesterday

HOUSE FLOOR: House passes short-term spending bill.

Members agreed, 256-159, to a stop-gap appropriations bill (H J Res 394) to fund government programs until Dec. 16.

An expected debate on aid to the Nicaraguan contras was avoided when Rep. David E. Bonior, D-Mich., decided not to offer an amendment tightening restrictions on the assistance.

The resolution includes \$3.2 million in non-lethal aid to the rebels. The amendment would have barred the CIA from a role in delivering the funds.

Bonior said he would resurrect the matter when a long-term spending measure (H J Res 395) is considered.

H J Res 394 would extend spending at fiscal 1987 levels.

The Senate is scheduled to take up the resolution Tuesday.

• Late Wednesday, members passed, 254-158, a bill (HR 212) prohibiting most companies from requiring lie-detector tests as a condition for employment.

SENATE FLOOR: Nuclear-waste filibuster continues.

Sens. Brock Adams, D-Wash., and Harry Reid, D-Nev., continued a filibuster on HR 2700, a \$15.9 billion fiscal 1988 energy and water appropriations bill. They object to provisions that would order the Energy Department (DOE) to continue its search for a high-level nuclear waste disposal site.

Nevada and Washington are two of the three states that DOE has chosen as potential hosts. Reid and Adams argue that the decision was politically motivated and made without full regard to safety and other issues.

Managers of the bill filed a cloture petition to shut off the filibuster. Senators will vote on the motion Tuesday.

In other action, members:

• Voted, 93-0, to ratify an addition to an international treaty that would ban dumping of plastic materials anywhere in the ocean and establish various restrictions on the disposal of other waste, including metals, paper and glass.

• Passed, 93-0, HR 1539, which authorizes funds for rail safety programs and gives the Federal Railroad Administration authority to impose civil penalties on rail employees for safety violations.

• Confirmed M. Alan Woods as administrator of the Agency for International Development.

Weinberger resigns, Carlucci named new Pentagon chief.

As had been expected for several days, Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger announced his resignation, effective upon confirmation of his successor.

President Reagan named National Security Adviser Frank C. Carlucci to replace Weinberger. The number-two man at the National Security Council, Lt. Gen. Colin L. Powell, will move up to replace Carlucci.

Weinberger's exit leaves three cabinet posts vacant: Defense, Labor and Transportation. He is the fourth cabinet officer to jump ship this year. Of Reagan's 1981 cabinet appointments, only

House conferees on housing make offer to Senate.

House negotiators on the federal housing authorization (S 825) agreed to spending levels of \$15 billion in fiscal 1988 and \$15.4 billion in fiscal 1989.

Senate conferees are expected to take up the offer next week.

Conferees are trying to forge a compromise on funding that can survive a presidential veto.

Energy subcommittee OKs changes in Staggers Act.

Legislation (HR 1393) to require the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) to protect so-called "captive shippers" — those who have access to just one railroad — won a first-round battle in the House Energy Transportation Subcommittee.

The panel approved, 9-6, the bill, which had been altered substantially since its introduction. Full committee action could come later this year.

The captive shippers, mostly electric utilities and coal producers, have complained that the ICC has not enforced provisions of the 1980 rail deregulation legislation, known as the Staggers Act.

Railroads and non-captive shippers oppose the legislation.

Subcommittee opts for mail sales tax measure.

The House Ways and Means Select Revenue Subcommittee approved legislation (HR 1242) that would require large retailers to collect tax on interstate sales. The measure would apply mainly to mail-order companies and stores that deliver merchandise across state lines.

According to Rep. Byron L. Dorgan, D-N.D., the measure's chief sponsor, the legislation could produce about \$2 billion in sales taxes.

The Senate Finance Taxation Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the issue this morning.

House subcommittee votes to give VA cabinet status.

The Veterans Administration, an independent agency since its creation in 1930, would be granted cabinet-level status under legislation (HR 3471) approved by the House Government Operations Legislation Subcommittee.

Backers of the measure, including the chairmen and ranking Republicans on the Government Operations and Veterans' Affairs committees and more than

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